



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-351-857]

**Raw Honey from Brazil: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures**

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that raw honey from Brazil is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. The period of investigation is April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

**DATES:** Applicable [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Justin Neuman or Genevieve Coen, AD/CVD Operations, Office V, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0486 or (202) 482-3251, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on May 18, 2021.<sup>1</sup> On August 26, 2021, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now November 17, 2021.<sup>2</sup> For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see the*

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<sup>1</sup> See *Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 86 FR 26897 (May 18, 2021) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Raw Honey from Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 86 FR 47624 (August 26, 2021).

Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

### Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is raw honey from Brazil. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

### Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to Commerce's regulations,<sup>4</sup> the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>5</sup> No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. Commerce is not preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. *See* the scope in Appendix I to this notice.

### Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Commerce has calculated export prices in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act. Normal value is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. In addition, Commerce has relied on partial facts available under section 776(a)(1) of the Act for Melbras Importadora E

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<sup>3</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Raw Honey from Brazil," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

<sup>4</sup> *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

<sup>5</sup> *See Initiation Notice*.

Exportadora Agroindustrial Ltda. (Melbras). For a full description of the methodology underlying the preliminary determination, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

#### All-Others Rate

Section 733(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act provides that in the preliminary determination Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for all exporters and producers not individually examined. Pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act, this rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any zero and *de minimis* margins, and any margins determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

In this investigation, Commerce calculated estimated weighted-average dumping margins for Melbras and Apiário Diamante Comercial Exportadora Ltda/Apiário Diamante Produção e Comercial de Mel Ltda (collectively, Supermel) that are not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available. Commerce calculated the all-others rate using a weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins calculated for the examined respondents using each company's publicly-ranged values for the merchandise under consideration.<sup>6</sup>

#### Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist:

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<sup>6</sup> With two respondents under examination, Commerce normally calculates (A) a weighted-average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins calculated for the examined respondents; (B) a simple average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins calculated for the examined respondents; and (C) a weighted-average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins calculated for the examined respondents using each company's publicly-ranged U.S. sale values for the merchandise under consideration. Commerce then compares (B) and (C) to (A) and selects the rate closest to (A) as the most appropriate rate for all other producers and exporters. *See Ball Bearings and Parts Thereof from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Reviews, Final Results of Changed-Circumstances Review, and Revocation of an Order in Part*, 75 FR 53661, 53663 (September 1, 2010). As complete publicly-ranged sales data were available, Commerce based the all-others rate on the publicly-ranged sales data of the mandatory respondents. For a complete analysis of the data, *see* Memorandum, "Calculation of All-Others Rate," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice.

<b>Exporter/Producer</b>	<b>Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)</b>
Melbras Importadora E Exportadora Agroindustrial Ltda.	7.89
Apiário Diamante Comercial Exportadora Ltda / Apiário Diamante Produção e Comercial de Mel Ltda <sup>7</sup>	29.61
All Others	20.19

### Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise, as described in Appendix I, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*.

Further, pursuant to section 733(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin or the estimated all-others rate, as follows: (1) the cash deposit rate for the respondents listed above will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margins determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if the exporter is not a respondent identified above, but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for that producer of the subject merchandise; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin.

These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

### Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no

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<sup>7</sup> Commerce preliminarily determines that Apiário Diamante Comercial Exportadora Ltda and Apiário Diamante Produção e Comercial de Mel Ltda are affiliated and should be treated as a single entity. See Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

#### Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination. Normally, Commerce verifies information using standard procedures, including an on-site examination of original accounting, financial, and sales documentation. However, due to current travel restrictions in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Commerce is unable to conduct on-site verification in this investigation.

Accordingly, we intend to verify the information relied upon in making the final determination through alternative means in lieu of an on-site verification.

#### Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. A timeline for the submission of case briefs and written comments will be notified to interested parties at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs.<sup>8</sup> Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until further notice.<sup>9</sup> Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) a statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after

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<sup>8</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309; *see also* 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

<sup>9</sup> See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19*, 85 FR 17006 (March 26, 2020) (Temporary Rule); and *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

#### Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner. Section 351.210(e)(2) of Commerce's regulations requires that a request by exporters for postponement of the final determination be accompanied by a request for extension of provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not more than six months in duration.

On November 10, 2021, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), Melbras and Supermel requested that Commerce postpone the final determination and that provisional measures be extended to a period not to exceed six months.<sup>10</sup> In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(2)(ii), because: (1) the preliminary determination is affirmative; (2) the requesting exporters account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise; and (3) no compelling reasons for denial exist, Commerce is postponing the final determination and extending the provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not greater than six months. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination.

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<sup>10</sup> See Melbras' Letter, "Request for Postponement of Final Determination," dated November 10, 2021; *see also* Supermel's Letter, "Request for Postponement of Final Determination," dated November 10, 2021.

## International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its preliminary determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

## Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: November 17, 2021.

Ryan Majerus,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Policy and Negotiations,  
Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the  
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

## **Appendix I**

### **Scope of the Investigation**

The merchandise covered by this investigation is raw honey. Raw honey is honey as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling and skimming, or coarse straining. Raw honey has not been filtered to a level that results in the removal of most or all of the pollen, *e.g.*, a level that removes pollen to below 25 microns. The subject products include all grades, floral sources and colors of raw honey and also include organic raw honey.

Excluded from the scope is any honey that is packaged for retail sale (*e.g.*, in bottles or other retail containers of five (5) lbs. or less).

The merchandise subject to this investigation is currently classifiable under statistical subheading 0409.00.0005, 0409.00.0035, 0409.00.0045, 0409.00.0056, and 0409.00.0065 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.



## **Appendix II**

### **List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Critical Circumstances
- V. Affiliation and Single Entity Treatment
- VI. Discussion of the Methodology
- VII. Currency Conversion
- VIII. Recommendation

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